



United States Marshals Service

Justice Integrity Service



REGIONAL FUGITIVE TASK FORCES

CATCH OF THE WEEK

Week of January 23rd, 2006

Taking the Worst of the Worst Off the Streets

Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force

Daniel Perez, a vicious fugitive who fled from justice while on trial for kidnapping and attempted murder and, who allegedly committed a murder while on the run, was arrested in Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico on January 23, 2006 by agents of the Agencia Federal de Investigaciones (AFI). AFI acted on information provided by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, the Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force (PSWRFTF), and the Mexico City Field Office of the United States Marshals Service. The Perez case gained national attention as a result of the egregious nature of the crimes, and the fact that he fled to Mexico to avoid arrest. Perez was profiled on the Fox television program *America's Most Wanted* several times, as well as on CNN and other local and national news outlets. On April 9, 1999, Anabella Vara was kidnapped in Los Angeles County and held at gunpoint by her estranged husband, Daniel Perez, for four hours. Although her life was repeatedly threatened, she was able to reach a temporary place of safety and call 911 on her cellular phone. Enraged, Perez pursued her as she fled in her car and forced her off the road. As Anabella ran from her car, Perez caught up to her and shot her in the back of the head, leaving her for dead. Though severely injured, Anabella survived. Perez was quickly apprehended and charged with attempted murder. He posted a one million dollar bond and was released pending trial. On August 27, 1999, the same day that Anabella, and both her sister and father testified against Perez, and two days before the trial ended, Perez allegedly broke into their home at 3:00 a.m. He opened fire and shot her father, Carlos Vara, seven times, killing him instantly. Anabella, who had been relocated to a "safe house" that evening, was not harmed. Since that day, Perez has threatened to come back and "finish the job" on Anabella. For years, she has lived in fear that he would return and make good on his threats. Perez was convicted of all counts in the Los Angeles County case and sentenced, in absentia, to 33 years in prison. The San Bernardino County District Attorney has filed murder charges against Perez in connection with the August 1999 slaying of Carlos Vara. While on the run, Perez is believed to be responsible for continuing to communicate threats against Anabella and her family, as well as against any law enforcement officer who would attempt to capture him. More information concerning the Perez case, including "911" tapes from the original kidnapping/shooting, a threatening letter written to Annabella while he was on the run, and other related materials are available at www.escapingjustice.com/vara.htm



Daniel Perez

**Wanted for
Kidnapping,
Attempted Murder,
and Murder**

Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force

On January 23, 2006, the Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force (GLRFTF) arrested Marcus Hall who was wanted in Memphis, Tennessee on state murder charges. The U.S. Marshals Western District of Tennessee (W/TN), with the assistance of the U.S. Marshals Technical Operations Group (TOG), developed information that Hall had fled to Indianapolis, Indiana. With the assistance of TOG, Task Force members were able to develop information that Hall was at a hotel on the west side of Indianapolis. Investigators confirmed the room in which Hall was staying and witnessed, through a window, at least two individuals in the 2nd story room. The window was partially open and the subjects seemed to be routinely looking outside and keeping an eye on the parking lot. The Task Force deployed with one team at the door and another team positioned on the ground near the window. When the door team knocked and announced, Hall leapt from the window to the ground below where he was quickly tackled and apprehended. The door team forced entry into the room and found an individual who identified himself as Albert Duncan. A Ruger 9mm semiautomatic handgun was recovered along with crack cocaine in plain view. Both subjects were taken into custody. While still on the scene, five females arrived at the room. One of these individuals, Nakisha Morris, was found to be wanted locally in Indianapolis for failure to appear.



Marcus Hall

Wanted for Murder

Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force

On January 19, 2006, investigators from the Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force (SERFTF) arrested fugitive Blake Welsh at an apartment in Riverdale, Georgia. On January 12, 2006, while investigating another case, agents from the SERFTF developed a lead regarding the whereabouts of Welsh, who was wanted by the Rockford, Illinois Police Department for murder and by the Illinois Department of Corrections for parole violation (original charge of murder). The initial lead indicated that Welsh was residing at an apartment on Riverdale Road and was driving a 2005 Nissan Altima with Illinois tags. Investigators developed information that Welsh was staying at a specific unit in the complex and established surveillance. On January 19, 2006, SERFTF investigators observed the subject drive a 2005 Nissan Altima into the complex, park the vehicle in front of the unit and enter. A short time later, agents made entry into the apartment and observed a loaded 9mm handgun in plain view on the kitchen table. They encountered Welsh as he was exiting the bathroom and took him into custody without incident. After the arrest, the VIN of the Altima was run through NCIC and was found to have been stolen in Chicago, Illinois where it was involved in two armed robberies. At the time of his arrest, Welsh was wearing a gold and diamond pendant which read "BMF for Life" (Black Mafia Family). It was seized by Task Force agents and later appraised at approximately \$200,000. Welsh has several prior arrests for assault, narcotics, and weapons offenses, as well as the previous homicide.



Blake Welsh

Wanted for Murder

New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force

Woodrow Simpson was wanted by the Atlantic County (NJ) Police Department and by the Atlantic City Prosecutor's Office on charges of homicide, aggravated assault, possession of a firearm, and distribution of narcotics. The homicide charge stems from an incident on January 7, 2006, in which Simpson allegedly shot two individuals during a drug-related dispute in Atlantic City, New Jersey. After the altercation, both victims were rushed to a local hospital where one of the victims died from a gunshot wound to the abdomen. Simpson is also suspected of being a participant in an organization responsible for distributing narcotics throughout the casinos located in Atlantic City. On January 18, 2006, the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office requested the assistance of the NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force (NY/NJ RFTF) in locating and apprehending Simpson. On January 27, 2006, Task Force investigators, with assistance from the U.S. Marshals Technical Operations Group (TOG) arrested Simpson without incident at the apartment of an associate in the Bronx, New York. Simpson is being held at Riker's Island pending extradition to New Jersey to face the above charges.



Woodrow Simpson

**Wanted for Homicide,
Aggravated Assault,
Possession of a
Firearm, and
Distribution of
Narcotics**

Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force

On January 18, 2006, members of the Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force (CARFTF) arrested Dominique Stewart, wanted on multiple warrants for assault from both Prince George's County (MD) and the DC Metropolitan Police Departments. Stewart was nearly arrested at a residence in Temple Hills, Maryland but was able to elude capture despite the coordinated efforts of several departments, including the use of a K-9 unit and police helicopter. Members of the CARFTF, as well as Prince George's County authorities and Arlington County (VA) Police investigators, went to work and quickly developed leads that enabled them to track Stewart from Maryland to an associate's residence in Arlington, Virginia later that same evening. Based on specific information uncovered during the investigation, surveillance was initiated on an apartment complex in Arlington. At approximately 10:30 p.m. members of the CARFTF along with the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office entered the residence and after a short search, found Stewart hiding in a bathtub. A fully loaded Ruger .45 caliber handgun and a bag of marijuana were found in the apartment. Stewart faces charges as a fugitive from DC and Maryland, and will also face gun charges. He has a history of arrests that range from possessing unregistered firearms, to assault with intent to kill.



Dominique Stewart

**Wanted for Multiple
Counts of Assault**